

PRESS! RELEASE

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FIRST LADY ANITA PERRY AND TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HONOR SAN MARCOS WITH TEXAS TREASURES AWARD

AUSTIN — Impressive Victorian homes, local historic districts, inviting natural springs and an active Main Street Program all contribute to earning the City of San Marcos a 2010 First Lady's Texas Treasures Award. The award was presented by First Lady Anita Perry February 16 at the Texas Travel Industry Association's annual Unity Dinner in Austin.



A TEXAS TREASURE: Representatives of the City of San Marcos and community groups accept the First Lady's Texas Treasure Award at a ceremony in Austin. L-R are Ollie Giles, Sue Cohen, Chuck Swallow, Ann DuPont, THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, First Lady Anita Perry, John Foreman, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Matthew Lewis and Laurie Moyer.

University help to stimulate student interest in historic preservation and earn points in the nomination for the award. *Uniquely San Marcos Restaurants* is a publication featuring rehabilitated historic buildings in San Marcos' National Register District that offers photos and a history of the historic properties, as well as menus.

The award, initiated in 2009, recognizes communities that showcase their dedication to preservation efforts through participation in Texas Historical Commission (THC) initiatives and other state and local programs. The award is sponsored by the Office of the First Lady and the THC.

"We are fortunate here in Texas to have such a collection of historic towns, buildings, courthouses and sites," said First Lady Anita Perry. "We're also lucky to have tried and true programs and dedicated partners that contribute to the preservation of our shared heritage."

Unique partnerships like the San Marcos Main Street Program's collaboration with fourth-year design students at Texas State

The Calaboose Museum, which highlights the community's African American heritage, and the Charles S. Cock House Museum, with its popular Friday Cottage Kitchen luncheons, are the real places that tell the real stories of this historically and culturally rich community.

“The City of San Marcos is honored to receive the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award,” said Mayor Susan Narvaiz. “This wonderful recognition from First Lady Anita Perry and the Texas Historical Commission is a tribute to the great value our citizens place on the proud history and cultural heritage of San Marcos. I congratulate the organizations and individuals who sustain the distinctive character of our community through historic preservation.”

The 2010 award winners were chosen from a group of highly qualified candidates by a committee comprised of staff members from the Office of the Governor and the THC. In addition to San Marcos, Nacogdoches and Waxahachie also received the 2010 First Lady's Texas Treasures Award.

“The citizens of San Marcos demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting their cultural resources and enriching the lives of visitors through the preservation of their unique heritage stories,” said THC Chairman Jon Hansen. “The prestige of this award assures that San Marcos will serve as a model for other communities to follow on their own preservation journey.”

The First Lady's Texas Treasures Award promotes and recognizes the unique heritage experiences of San Marcos through special signage and a DVD promoting the cultural resources of the community. To see video clips of the 2009 award-winning communities visit the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us. To learn more about this and other heritage tourism initiatives contact the THC's Community Heritage Development Division at 512.463.6092.

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